

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, further comprising:

digital-to-analog converting means for producing an analog signal by digital-to-analog converting said digital data which has been subjected to the reproduction processing by said reproducing unit; and

said jack having a terminal for outputting said analog signal obtained from said digital-to-analog converting means, to said plug inserted.

3. (currently amended) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, wherein

said jack is provided in said case so that said plug is projected from the second ~~other end side~~ toward the first ~~one end side~~ in said longitudinal direction.

4. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 3, wherein

said jack is provided so that the direction of inserting said plug is slant with respect to said longitudinal direction of said case.

5. (currently amended) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, further comprising

strap attaching means which is provided on said first ~~one end~~ side in the longitudinal direction of said case for attaching a predetermined strap thereto.

6. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 5, wherein

said strap attaching means allows said dangling strap to be attached thereto.

7. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, further comprising:

a circuit board which is contained in said case with loading an Integrated Circuit package which constitutes at least a part of said control unit; and

projecting parts for containing a part of said circuit board, which are formed so that a part of said case projects in accordance with the form of said circuit board.

8. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 7, wherein said projecting parts are formed in said longitudinal direction of said case.

9. (currently amended) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, further comprising

a clip which is provided on said first ~~one~~-end side in said longitudinal direction of said case to attach the case to a user's body, clothes, and belongings.

10. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, further comprising:

an interface for taking in said digital data which is transferred from outside; and

recording means for recording said digital data taken in by said interface, to said storage medium.

11. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 10, wherein

said interface takes in said digital data which is transferred from said outside on Internet.

12. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 11, wherein said interface is a connector based on the Universal Serial Bus standard.

13. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, wherein said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed with a MPEG Audio Layer-3 method, from said storage medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit.

14. (previously presented) The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 36, wherein said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed by an Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding-3 method, from said storage medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, wherein said strap has a ring part and a holding means for integrally holding a code introduced from said plug and said ring part.

18. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 17, wherein said ring part comprises:

band member; and

sticking means for sticking one end on the back plane of said band member to the other end on the front plane of the band member.

19. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 18, wherein

said sticking means is a sticking tape for detachably sticking said one end on said back plane of said band member to said the other end on said front plane of the band member.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 17, wherein

said jack is provided in said case so that said plug is projected from the second ~~other~~-end ~~side~~-toward said first ~~one~~-end ~~side~~-in said longitudinal direction of said case.

22. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 17, wherein

said jack is provided in said case so that the direction of inserting said plug is slanted with respect to said longitudinal direction of said case.

23. (previously presented) The portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, further comprising:

a circuit board which is contained with loading an Integrated Circuit package which constitutes at least a part of said control unit; and

projecting parts for containing a part of said circuit board, which are formed so that a part of said case projects corresponding to the form of said circuit board.

24. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 23, wherein

said projecting parts are formed in said longitudinal direction of said case.

25. (currently amended) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, further comprising

a clip provided on said first ~~one~~ end side in said longitudinal direction of said case, to attach the case to a user's body, clothes or belongings.

26. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, further comprising:

an interface for taking in said digital data which is transferred from outside; and

recording means for recording said digital data taken in by said interface, to said storage medium.

27. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, wherein

said interface takes in said digital data which is transferred from said outside on Internet.

28. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, wherein

said interface is a connector based on the Universal Serial Bus standard.

29. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, wherein

said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed with a MPEG Audio Layer-3 method, from said storage medium, in accordance with said reproduction

instruction from said manipulating unit.

30. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 37, wherein

said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed by an Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding-3 method, from said storage medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A handheld recording and/or reproducing device, comprising:

a cylindrically-shaped housing case having a first ~~one~~ end side opposite a second ~~an other end side~~, wherein the housing case has a center in a longitudinal direction of the housing case between the first end and the second end, wherein a first end side of the housing case extends from the center in the longitudinal direction of the housing case to the first end, and wherein a second end side of the housing case extends from the center in the longitudinal direction of the housing case to the second end;

a manipulating unit configured to be arranged on a plane perpendicular to the ~~a~~ longitudinal direction of said housing case at the first ~~one~~ end side;

a strap attaching unit configured to be arranged at the ~~one~~

first end side on a plane extending in the longitudinal direction of the housing casing, wherein the strap attaching unit is at a predetermined position spaced from the manipulating unit in a direction of the second ~~other end side~~;

a jack configured to be arranged at the ~~one~~ first end side on the plane extending in the longitudinal direction of the housing casing, said jack having an opening arranged to receive a plug inserted from a direction of the first ~~one end side~~;

a storage medium configured to store digital data;

a reproducing unit;

a power supply unit configured to contain a power supply and to be arranged at the second ~~other end~~ side of the housing case,

wherein, when the power supply is within the power supply unit, a center of gravity of the device is ~~substantially at the other second end side in the longitudinal direction of the housing case~~ and the predetermined position of the strap attaching unit is spaced from the center of gravity of the device in a direction of the first ~~one side end~~,

wherein, when the power supply is within the power supply unit and a strap dangled from a neck of a user is attached to the strap attaching unit from a direction of the first end ~~one side~~ so the device is dangled vertically from the neck of the user, the first end of the housing case ~~manipulating unit and the opening of the jack orient~~ orients toward the neck of the user ~~a vertical up direction~~; and

a control unit configured to control said reproducing unit to reproduce the stored digital data in accordance with an input from said manipulating unit,

said housing case containing said storage medium, said control unit, said reproducing unit, said power supply unit and said jack configured to output an audio signal generated by said reproducing unit.

37. (previously presented) The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to claim 36, further comprising:

a strap to be attached to said strap attaching unit.